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GENERAL

E 2137

14 FEB 1948

Registry Number | E2137/11/65

TELEGRAM FROM
Sir A. Kirkbride
Amman

No. 82

Dated 12.2.48

Received in Registry 14.2.48

Arab States and Palestine

Reports conversation with Musa el Alami who has just returned from Damascus. His opinion is that Syrians have definite ambitions in Palestine; if King Abdulla interferes Syrians and Mufti will combine against him.

Repeated to Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jedda, B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem.

Last Paper.

E 2121

(Minutes.)

Pol. circulation

H.B. 20/2

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Col. Sherman
Cabinet Office
Mr. Mathieson
Colonial Office
Mr. Scheer, M.I.5
M.I.9a, War Office
M.O.4., " "
Air Ministry
Admiralty
24 Feb.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 2163.

30471 F.O.P

E 2137
14 FEB 1948

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP DIPLOMATIC (SECRET).

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir A. Kirkbride. D. 3.15 p.m. 12th February, 1948.
No. 82.
12th February, 1948. R. 3.47 p.m. 12th February, 1948.

Repeated Saving Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jedda, British Middle East Office Cairo, Jerusalem.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 82 of February 12th, repeated Saving Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jedda, British Middle East Office Cairo and Jerusalem.

Musa El Alami has just arrived from Damascus and gave me some interesting sidelights on the politics of the Arab States about Palestine and in particular Moslem Arab areas.

2. He thought Syrians had definite ambitions to acquire, if not all Palestine, at least Arab areas and rift between Syrian President and Mufti arose from this fact. If Transjordan intervention in Palestine became a fact, it was probable in his opinion, that the President and the Mufti would sink their differences in order to present a common front against King Abdulla. Syrian President was however confident that His Majesty's Government would not permit the King to use Arab Legion in Palestine. Musa said he and his friends would welcome the Union of Palestine and Transjordan.

3. He had heard it was Jewish intention to occupy certain strategic points in Arab areas as soon as the mandate terminated. The usual excuse of it being necessary for defensive purposes would be used. He felt that if they did this, intervention of Arab armies would be justified.

4. He suggested it would be useful for detachments of Arab Legion in civilian clothes to infiltrate into certain parts of Palestine before the end of the mandate. When I expressed the view that such action was neither practicable nor advisable, he remarked that similar action had been under consideration by Syrians and Lebanese and might have already been resorted to.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

14 FEB 1948

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